

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education
The Cabinet Room

June 3, 2010
5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Michael Casson, Samtra Devard, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Wendy Murray, Shelley Rouser, Karen Schilling-Ross and Juanita Wilson

Members Absent: Joanne Christian, Marilyn Dollard, Lori Hudson, Gretchen Pikus, Whitney Price and Kathleen Thomas

Others Present: Charlie Michels, PSB Executive Director: Paula Fontello, Deputy Attorney General: Deborah Stevens, Delaware State Education Association: Judi Coffield, State Board of Education Policy Analyst: Pat Bigelow, DOE Education Associate for Professional Accountability.

I. Opening

Call to Order: Dr. Greaves, Professional Standards Board Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Mr. Kohan and seconded by Ms. Lewandowski, to approve the Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2010: A motion was made by Ms. Murray and seconded by Ms. Gordon, to approve the PSB Minutes of May 6, 2010. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels updated the Board on the proposed Alternative Routes to Licensure and Certification for Principals and Superintendents. He told the Board that Mr. Cruce of the DOE had communicated to him a week prior, that the plan to move forward accompanying legislation had been put on hold until January 2011 at the earliest.
- The Department has completed, with considerable help from Specialists across the State, the development of mentoring programs for School Nurses, School Counselors and School Psychologists.
- Mr. Michels shared with the Board his recent involvement with the DOE on Technology Education issues and the movement toward the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives. The Department has expressed their

appreciation for Mr. Michels' expertise in these areas, as the DOE is currently without an Education Associate for Technology Education.

- During a recent State Personnel Director's meeting, Mr. Michels shared with the group the latest developments on Praxis I requirements, Administrative certifications and potential amendments in regulation 1506 Emergency Certificate. A lively conversation ensued.
- Mr. Michels updated the Emergency Certificate Report of one year ago and he indicated that overall, the 'numbers' have not diminished. Regulation 1506 will be reviewed by the Board in the near future, as Mr. Michels has already drafted a few possible amendments based on conversations with the Board, the State Board of Education (SBE), School Chiefs and staff of the Department.
- Due to recent changes in several standard Certificates, Mr. Michels will be bringing forward to the Board in the near future, amendments to regulation 1505 Standard Certificate. Potential amendments include several definitions, final approval resting with the Department, for the required "15 hours of professional development" and timelines for submission of documents needed for licensure and certification.
- Mr. Michels presented to retiring Charter Member Ms. Schilling-Ross and resigning Member Ms. Wilson, *Certificates of Appreciation* for serving on the PSB. In addition, Mr. Michels presented both Members with the coveted wooden PSB pen and pencil sets. The Board acknowledged their service with a round of applause. Mr. Michels will see to presenting the same items to resigning Member Ms. Pikus who was unable to attend the evening's meeting.

IV. **Action Items**

A. 1503 Educator Mentoring

Mr. Michels reviewed the latest revisions and suggestions to the regulation after review by Ms. Fontello and him. Although the changes appeared to be considerable, it was determined by the Board after discussion, that the changes were as a whole, clarifications and not substantive. Some changes included clarifying the definition of 'Educator' such that individuals working toward Initial Licensure in long-term substitute teaching positions shall receive mentoring, elimination of 2 definitions that were not relevant, abbreviating language relative to license suspension or denial and several grammatical amendments. A motion was made by Ms. Lewandowski and seconded by Dr. Rouser for Final Approval of 1503 Educator Mentoring. The motion carried.

B. PRAXIS II Scores

Dr. Bigelow of the Department of Education reviewed the rationale and data on the Praxis II Physics examination, including an equivalent score on the new examination as determined by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). A discussion followed. Dr. Bigelow reiterated that the current Praxis II examinations approved for Delaware educators by both the PSB and SBE in Physics, Special Education, Business Education and World Language French, Spanish and German are being phased out by ETS. The new Physics, Special Education and Business Education exams have been increased from 1 hour to two hours, and the 3 World language exams have been reformatted from two separate 1 hour exams to single 2 hours exams each. ETS completed regional Standard Setting Studies to determine appropriate cut scores. After an open discussion with Dr. Bigelow fielding numerous questions with alacrity, a motion was made by Ms. Schilling-Ross and seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the 5 new exams and corresponding cut scores, as presented. The motion carried.

C. 1517 Permits Paraeducators

Mr. Michels reviewed the current iteration of the regulation. He shared concerns about the ability of individuals using "2 years of study at an institution of Higher Education...by a

distance education institution...nationally accredited”. Mr. Michels shared a list from the US DOE website that listed nationally accredited organizations which raised concern on his part. Ms. Fontello had a suggestion to replace this language with language from a DOE regulation which would allow the Secretary of Education the latitude to approve additional Institutions of Higher Education. Another point of concern was the recent proposed addition of a Praxis I scores option to gain the Paraeducator Permit. The US DOE does not currently allow for this in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and the Board became concerned when the possibility of unintended consequences with this option were raised. The Board agreed that more research needed to be done prior to presenting the regulation before the Board for Publication.

D. 1521 Elementary Teacher

Mr. Michels reviewed the proposed amended certification regulation 1521 Elementary Teacher. The Board understood that there were no changes in certification requirements, but that the regulation needed to be reformatted to meet current regulation language standards. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Ms. Lewandowski and seconded by Mr. Kohan to Publish amended 1521 Elementary Teacher. The motion carried.

E. PSB Meeting Calendar

After an open discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Schilling-Ross and seconded by Ms. Murray to approve the 2009- 2010 PSB Meeting Calendar as below. The motion carried.

July 1 2010 1:15 pm
August 5, 2010 1:15 pm
September 2, 2010 5:15 pm
October 7, 2010 1:15 pm
November 4, 2010 5:15 pm
December 2, 2010 1:15 pm
January 6, 2011 1:15 pm
February 3, 2011 1:15 pm
March 3, 2011 5:15 pm
April 7, 2011 1:15 pm
May 5, 2011 5:15 pm
June 2, 2011 5:15 pm

V. Discussion

A. 1583 School Psychologist

The latest version of this regulation was presented to the Board. Mr. Michels shared the conversation he had with Dr. Michael Stetter, the DOE Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development. Dr. Stetter was in favor of eliminating the certification option that allowed for a ‘course count’ in which a subjective determination would need to be made by the Department on individual transcripts. The other options requiring completion of a Masters or Doctoral program, as approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) or the American Psychological Association (APA) seemed to Dr. Stetter to be very reasonable. Mr. Michels explained that the rather rigorous number of hours required in the regulation (60) is the number in a NASP-approved program at an Institution of Higher Education. The general consensus of the Board members believed that the suggested amendments were reasonable. Mr. Michels is meeting with Dr. Rogers, the DOE Associate Secretary for Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Stetter in the near future, prior to presenting the amended regulation to the DOE Leadership Team for review.

B. PRAXIS I

Mr. Michels shared his latest research on national Praxis I scores and presented a document that listed possible options for the attaining this Delaware Initial Licensure requirement. Mr. Michels indicated that decisions on this component of regulation 1510 Issuance of Initial License, are but one of several, including potential amending of Delaware Code relative to when the Praxis I examination requirement needs to be fulfilled. Mr. Michels asked the Board to consider the Praxis I options and that he hoped that the entire ‘package’ of Code and regulation amendments will be finalized for Action by the Board in the fall of 2010 and subsequent action by the General Assembly in January of 2011.

C. Administrative certification regulations

Mr. Michels quickly reviewed the current progress made by the Higher Education work group on the 3 administrative certification regulations. Mr. Michels shared a document he had constructed that showed current and potential requirements for certifications. Due to meeting time constraints, Mr. Michels indicated he would revise the document and send it electronically to Board members as ‘homework’. Mr. Michels will collate the results and will share with the Board during the next PSB meeting.

VI. Presentation

None

VII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee has not met

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation

The Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee has not met.

VIII. Other

Ms. Devard asked about the possibility of a Member being able to ‘attend’ a PSB meeting via teleconferencing. Ms. Fontello advised that she would need to review the Administrative Procedures Act and any amendments to determine if this was an option for the Board to consider.

IX. Public Comment

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Schilling-Ross and seconded by Ms. Wilson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.